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Document No. 9

No Change In Class. Declassified

25X1

Class. Changed to TS S C 2 July 1958

Next Review Date:

Auth. FHR 70-32 13/80

Date proposed to Be 1958

Cuban is based

NSC Briefing

CUBA II

SECRET

growing anti-American sentiment among ~~surrounding countries~~ Cuban is based
 in the conviction that the US is providing arms and ammunition to

the rebels. ~~xxxm~~

I. Probable reasons for kidnappings

A. Clash of airfield near US base at Guantanamo caused five kidnaps
 and one death.

B. Attacks on American-owned properties and threats of retaliation against

C. Communist Popular Socialist party exploiting situation and using
 it as argument for return of Guantanamo base to Cuba.

II. Rebels hope to force US recognition of Castro's strength by dramatizing
 charges of US aid to Batista, and show latter incapable of controlling situation.

A. Kidnapping apparently well-planned and organized.

III. Cuban army, frustrated by lack of success against Castro control of mountains
 and rural areas has made terroristic attacks and probably bombing raids
 against civilians. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

A. Some indications raids against American property and Cuban civilians
 made by army or Senator Rolando Masferrer's private gang posing
 as rebels in effort to discredit latter.

IV. Batista appears less receptive than before to suggestions of liberalization
 of his regime.

A. Determined to take whatever stringent action necessary to defeat Castro,
 though hopes not to disrupt normal life of Cubans, since he is ~~xxxxxx~~
 criticized for inability to maintain order.

1. Claims continued emergency status works no hardships on law-abiding
 citizens.

B. Probably hopes for US military intervention to strengthen his position
 and help wipe out Castro once and for all.

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V Eusebio Mujal, powerful labor leader whose support has been important to Batista, told US Ambassador on 18 June that Batista determined to stay in presidency until term ends in February 1958 and nothing can be done to restore political normalcy until Batista quits.

VI Intermittent reports of dissatisfaction within Cuban armed forces, including high ranking officers, continue to be received. No connection with Castro, however.